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### Witness accuses ex-Ghanaian president of killing judges

**Accra- Ghana (PANA)** -- A former corporal in the Ghanaian Army has called on former President Jerry John Rawlings, his wife, Nana Konadu and Captain Kojo Tsikata (Rtd), a former security advisor, to confess their complicity in the murder of three judges and an army officer on 30 June 1982.

In his testimony before the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) in Accra, Matthew Adabuga said that Captain Tsikata and former President Rawlings were behind the killings and could never run away from the truth.

Cross-examined on Tuesday, Adabuga stated that Tsikata and Flt Lt.

Rawlings "were the real murderers", adding that "it will not work for us in the reconciliation process if the two do not confess".

Adabuga told Tsikata's counsel, Dr Obed Asamoah, that he thought Rawlings and Tsikata would be bold enough to acknowledge their role to help move the country forward.

Earlier, the witness had told the commission that Tsikata was with Rawlings when Joachim Amartey-Kwei, a former member of Rawlings' People's National Defence Council (PNDC) executed for his role in the murder of the judges and the army officer, broke the news that they had been killed.

Adabuga expressed his preparedness to be cross-examined by Rawlings if he chooses to.

The murder of the judges has become one of the most contentious issues in Ghanaian politics, with speculations that some top members of the PNDC were involved in the abduction and gruesome murder of the three high court judges and the ex-army officer.

The judges executed were Mr Justice Fred Poku Sarkodee, Mr Justice Kwadwo Agyei Agyepong and Mrs Justice Cecilia Koranteng- Addow and the army officer, Major Sam Acquah.

Rawlings and Tsikata have denied their involvement in the crime.

Another witness, Squadron Leader George Tagoe, told the commission that Amartey-Kwei confessed to him while in his cell at the Nsawam Medium Security Prison that Rawlings and Thiskata, his then National Security Advisor, masterminded the murder of the judges and the retired army officer.

Tagoe said Amartey-Kwei personally made the confession to him, when on the instructions of the prison authorities, he led the choir during the last prayers for Amartey-Kwei before his execution.

He said that Amartey-Kwei told him that though he selected Major Acquah, it was Rawlings and Acquah who nominated the three high court judges to be murdered for standing in the way of 31 December Revolution.

Tsikata, who attended the Commission's session on Tuesday, said there was no way Tagoe could have been invited to offer last prayers to a condemned prisoner.

Under the Prison Service regulations, it was only the chaplain who was authorised to perform the last rites for condemned men, he explained.

Tsikata added that evidence given before the Commission indicated that the last rites for Amartey-Kwei were performed at Usher Fort Prison and not Nsawam and therefore Tagoe's claim was a fabrication.

"Right from the day he came here, he has been telling a string of lies," Tsikata said, adding that Tagoe's allegation was a very serious one and appealed to the NRC to crosscheck the story against Prison Service records.

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